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October 20, 2011

Michael Machado, Executive Director
Delta Protection Commission
PO Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Support in Concept a National Heritage Area Designation for the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta

Dear Mr. Machado:

On behalf of the residents of San Joaquin County, and in accordance with the County's 2011-2012 Federal Legislative Platform, the Board of Supervisors *"supports in concept the designation of a National Heritage Area (NHA) for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provided such designation will not limit, impact, or prohibit present and future agricultural resources and activities, flood protection facilities, and other public infrastructure, and considers them as important resources to be preserved, maintained, restored, managed, protected, promoted, and encouraged within the boundaries of the NHA, will provide on-going federal funding for the protection, preservation, maintenance, restoration, and management of the Delta, and that the NHA Plan would be written by and managed by the Delta Protection Commission"*.

The County is pleased that the Delta Protection Commission's goals for the NHA Feasibility Study is to craft, "...a proposal to protect, enhance, and sustain the unique cultural, historical, recreational, agricultural, and economic values of the Delta as an evolving place." As stated in the County's Adopted Legislative Platform, the concept of a NHA designation is supported provided that the impacts to current and future agricultural resources and activities, flood control structures, and other public infrastructure are protected and funded as such, and that the management entity for the NHA shall be the Delta Protection Commission established by Section 29735 of the California Public Resources Code.

San Joaquin County looks forward to continuing to provide meaningful comments to the Delta Protection Commission as the Draft National Heritage Area Feasibility Study is released. Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Gau, Public Works Director at (209) 468-3034.

Sincerely,

Frank L. Ruhstaller, Chairman
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors

c: San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, Tom Gau, SJC Public Works Department, Scott Hudson, SJC Agricultural Commissioner, Peterson Consulting, State Advocates, The Ferguson Group, Federal Advocates